



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

ANNOUNCEMENT

National Park Service (NPS) Roger Kennedy Fellowship Program
Contexts of Environmental Policy Graduate Certificate
The George Washington University

Issuing Date: March 28, 2017
Closing Date: June 1, 2017
Area of Consideration: Washington, DC Metropolitan Area

TARGET AUDIENCE

This graduate-level certificate program is designed for emerging NPS leaders who possess the intellectual capacity and dedication required to successfully complete the rigorous academic coursework.

LOCATION

The *Contexts of Environmental Policy* Graduate Certificate is part of the Environmental Resource Policy program in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences (CCAS) at The George Washington University (GWU) in Washington, DC.

AREA OF CONSIDERATION

Applications will be accepted from permanent NPS employees who have served for three (3) cumulative years or more as of May 27, 2017.

PURPOSE

The National Park Service Roger Kennedy Fellowship Program is designed to help prepare current and future leaders who are responsible for the preservation and protection of our public lands and cultural heritage. Inspired by a gift from Roger and Frances Kennedy and made possible by the *Friends of Roger Kennedy*, this program funds NPS employees to undertake a course of study that strengthens their knowledge of the natural and cultural resources which lie at the heart of the NPS mission. Offering a wide range of courses that contextualize environmental policy, this Certificate provides both flexibility and purpose to NPS employees.

OVERVIEW

The certificate program began in 2013 and consists of four (4) graduate-level courses resulting in twelve (12) credit hours through GWU. All courses are taught by GWU faculty who are experts in their fields, and all will be offered in residence at the Washington, DC campus of GWU. (As described below, students not based in the DC area may take one online course from any location in the U.S.)

Students are required to take one policy course when they enter the program and then may choose among a large number of electives, which fall into either policy or culture categories. By special permission, depending on student backgrounds, students may also enroll in graduate courses in the sciences.

Students may take one or two courses per semester, with some courses being offered in the summer. Most courses are in the evening and meet once a week. Students must meet the admission requirements of GWU. Upon admission to the certificate program, students will not need to apply again each semester, as long as they remain in good academic standing as defined by CCAS standards.

New for 2017, students may try a blended learning approach to the certificate program. Students based outside the DC area would need to arrange with their management to be in the DC area for approximately six (6)-seven (7) months. The blended approach requires employees to be in the DC area for either the Spring and Summer semesters (mid-January through early July 2018) or the Summer and Fall semesters (mid-May through early December 2018). While students are in the DC area for the six (6)-seven (7) months they would need to enroll in three (3) courses at the GWU DC campus. The one remaining course can be completed online and could be complete at the individual's local area.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

The admissions process for this program is a two-tiered review:

- The first level of review is conducted by a NPS Review Panel, ensuring NPS employees meet all the eligibility requirements and are appropriate candidates to consider for the program. The NPS Review Panel will rank each nominee based upon the information provided in his/her application package. The ranking process will consist of an evaluation of the nominee's education, work experience, personal and professional goals, and writing ability.
- The second level of review is conducted by a CCAS Admissions Committee. The CCAS Admissions Committee makes the final selections based on the admission policies of CCAS and GWU. Applicants who move on to the CCAS review will need to sign up and complete GWU's graduate application using [GW Student Portal](#), the online application system.
- Applicants will be notified via email of their admissions status the week of July 1, 2017.

COSTS

Tuition costs will be funded by GWU out of funds raised by the *Friends of Roger Kennedy* group. The number of students admitted will depend on the level of funding available. Students will be responsible for university and course fees, such as a matriculation fee of \$185 and the Student Association fee of about \$2.75/credit hour. There is also a voluntary library fee of approximately \$50. Book costs will vary from approximately \$50 to \$250 per course.

HOW TO APPLY

The application packet must include the following documents:

- Proof of completion of Bachelor's Degree and an official transcript with a GPA of 3.0 or above. You must contact the Registrar's Office at each of the colleges or universities from which you will be requesting official sealed transcripts at your earliest convenience to ensure that you receive your transcripts in time to submit no later than June 1, 2017.
- Personal statement of at least 300, but no more than 800 words that includes the purpose for undertaking graduate study, academic objectives, research interests, and career plans/accomplishments.
- Resume that includes nominee's current position and minimum overall work history of at least 5 years.
- Signed letter of recommendation from the applicant's supervisor, specifying how the certificate would benefit the applicant and the organization and agreeing to support his/her participation for the duration of the program.
- Current SF-50 (Standard Form 50, Notice of Personnel Action) proof of being in a Competitive Service Permanent position.

Optional Document Requested:

- DI-Form 1935, Applicant Background Survey. Providing this demographic information is voluntary, and no individual personnel selections are made based upon this information.

Each applicant must submit the supporting documents by June 1, 2017.

Documents can be mailed to:

NPS, Learning & Development, Leadership Development Group
Attn.: Lisa Matarazzo
1201 Eye St NW, 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Or emailed to: lisa_matarazzo@nps.gov

SATISFACTORY PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT

As the program constitutes a graduate-level professional development opportunity, participants must demonstrate sustained progress in course work and work assignments sufficient to predict successful completion of the program. Failure to pass any course taken may result in termination from the program.

QUESTIONS/CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions about the application process, please contact:

Lisa Matarazzo (lisa_matarazzo@nps.gov).

If you have questions about the Certificate program, please contact: Kate Moore

(khmoore89@gwu.edu)

ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATE INFORMATION

Web link to CCAS, GWU, NPS Roger Kennedy Fellowship Program:

<https://enrp.columbian.gwu.edu/national-park-service-contexts-environmental-policy-graduate-certificate>

Web link to the NPS Roger Kennedy Fellowship Program Certificate Program courses:

<https://enrp.columbian.gwu.edu/national-park-service-contexts-environmental-policy-graduate-certificate-courses>